

HOUSE BILL 2558
By Shaw

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 125 in Hardeman County in honor of the late Sheriff Bennie E. Howell.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those exemplary public servants who contributed significantly to the safety and improvement of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Sheriff Bennie E. Howell, one of Hardeman County's finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding gentleman who exemplified the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Bennie E. Howell was elected to his first term of office as a Hardeman County Sheriff in 1962 and served with acumen and alacrity as the County's chief law enforcement officer for three consecutive two-year terms; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell served twenty-five years in law enforcement for Hardeman County and the townships located within the County, and he dedicated his life to the safety and service of others; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Howell was a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, and he worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for the good people of Hardeman County; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of Bennie E. Howell's lifetime of meritorious service, the Hardeman County Board of Commissioners has petitioned this body to name a certain bridge on State Highway 125 in that fair county in honor of the late Sheriff Bennie E. Howell to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal;
now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the newly-constructed bridge on State Route 125, south of Bolivar, between the east end of Middleton Loop Road and Oak Hill Road, in Hardeman County is hereby designated the "Sheriff Bennie E. Howell Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to an excellent law enforcement official and even more accomplished human being.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Sheriff Bennie E. Howell Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.